



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6

1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

NOV - 7 2011

Secretary F. David Martin
New Mexico Environment Department
1190 St. Francis Drive
Suite N4050
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

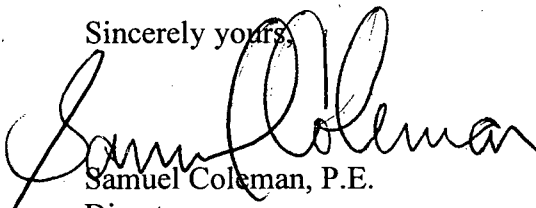
Dear Secretary Martin:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is writing to formally inform you the EPA is attempting to negotiate an Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent (AOC) with Hecla Limited (Hecla) for a removal action at the Johnny M Mine Area Superfund Site near San Mateo, McKinley County, New Mexico. Throughout the process, we will continue our ongoing discussions with your staff regarding this and related matters. Moreover, we greatly appreciate the contributions your team has already made to this effort.

The EPA intends to transmit to Hecla a proposed AOC within a matter of days and will require a response from Hecla by November 30, 2011, indicating whether Hecla is interested in conducting a removal under an AOC. If the EPA and Hecla are unable to reach an agreement by January 6, 2012, the EPA will evaluate other options.

If you have any comments or questions concerning the proposed AOC, please contact me or have your staff contact Pamela Travis at (214) 655-8056, Senior Assistant Regional Counsel or Jessica Hernandez, Assistant Regional Counsel at (214) 665-8384.

Sincerely yours,


Samuel Coleman, P.E.
Director
Superfund Division

cc: Dana Bahar, Program Manager
GWQB Superfund Oversight



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